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Byoung-Jo J. Kim

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APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

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1. ☒ Fee Transmittal Form
(submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☒ Specification [Total Pages 19]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)

- Descriptive title of invention
- Cross References to Related Applications
- Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R&D
- Reference to Microfiche Appendix
- Background of the Invention
- Brief Summary of the Invention
- Brief Description of the Drawings(if filed)
- Detailed Description
- Claim(s)
- Abstract of the Disclosure

3. ☒ Drawing(s)(35 USC 113) [Total Sheets 4]

4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 3]

- a. ☒ Newly executed (original or copy)
- b. ☐ Copy from a prior application(37 CFR 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)
[Note Box 5 below]

- i. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s)
named in the prior application, see 37 CFR
163(d)(2) and 1.33(b)

5. ☐ Incorporation by reference(usable if Box 4b is checked)

The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference herein.

6. ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
7. ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
(if applicable, all necessary)
- a. ☐ Computer Readable Copy
- b. ☐ Paper Copy(identical to computer copy)
- c. ☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

8. ☒ Assignment Papers(cover sheet & document(s))
9. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b)Statement ☐ Power of Attorney
10. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
11. ☒ Information Disclosure ☒ Copies of IDS
Statement(IDS)/PTO-1449 Citations
12. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
13. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
14. ☐ Small Entity ☐ Statement filed in prior application,
Statement(s) Status still proper and desired
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(if foreign priority is claimed)
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17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior Application No:

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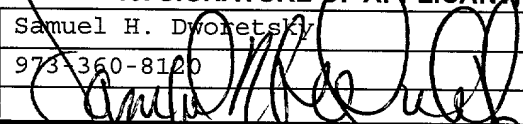
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or ☒ Correspondence address below

NAME	Samuel H. Dworetzky				
ADDRESS	AT&T CORP. P.O. Box 4110				
CITY	Middletown	STATE	New Jersey	ZIP CODE	07748-4801
COUNTRY	United States of America			FAX	732-368-6932

19. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

NAME	Samuel H. Dworetzky		Reg. #	27873
TELEPHONE	973-360-8120			
SIGNATURE			DATE	July 30, 1999

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Date of Deposit 7/30/1999

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**A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
A FIXED WIRELESS BROADBAND ACCESS AND
WIRELESS LAN INTEGRATION**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for a Fixed Wireless Broadband Access (FWBA) and Wireless LAN (WLAN) integration and, more particularly, to a method and apparatus for the integration of broadband RF (Radio Frequency) processing and modulation/demodulation components and a wireless local area network radio device.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ART

As digital devices shrink in size, becoming more portable, and begin to incorporate multiple functions (e.g., cellular phones with Internet access), individuals are more apt to want to keep the device on their person and to use it all the time regardless of their location. Presently, however, many portable digital devices have a limited range of use because of factors such as signal interference and poor reception (i.e., signal strength), especially when in use in or upon entrance to a building or facility. Thus to use the device at home or work as readily as elsewhere, the need exists to integrate fixed wireless broadband access with a wireless local area network for seamless communication and transfers, without having to do an extensive re-wiring of the network setups.

Currently WLANs alone are being implemented and integrated in homes and businesses. For example, U.S. Patent No. 5,696,903, issued December 9, 1997 to Mahany, relates to the integration of two wireless local area networks which each

exhibit substantially different characteristics. The first WLAN is made up of a radio unit infrastructure network and a portable computer. The second WLAN is made up of another portable computer and a number of peripheral devices with built-in transceivers. Coordination between the first and second WLAN is hierarchical in nature and is controlled by a singular radio transceiver using multiple communication protocols. Interference between each WLAN is prevented by a reservation access protocol. While communication within the transmission range of the radio unit infrastructure network is addressed between the WLANs, communication outside the range is not possible, thereby effectively limiting the mobility of the portable devices.

Another example, U.S. Patent No. 5,706,428, issued January 6, 1998 to Boer et al., relates to the transmission of data, using direct sequence spread spectrum coding, at different rates between multiple stations of a WLAN. To determine the data transmission rate between the stations, each data message includes a header having data fields which identify the bit rate and field length for the data portion of the message being sent. For inter-operability of the different stations of the WLAN, the message headers are all transmitted at a rate of 1 Mbps, regardless of the transmission speed of the rest of the message. Based on the data transmission rate contained in the header, and on channel conditions, a receiving station of the WLAN either acknowledges capability of receiving data at the rate specified or not. If no acknowledgment is sent, the transmitter resends the message at a lower rate. If an acknowledgment is sent, the transmitter sends the next message at the higher bit rate. There is, however, no provision for transmission of the messages when one of the stations is carried outside of the transmission range of the WLAN.

Yet another example, U.S. Patent No. 5,602,854, issued February 11, 1997 to Luse et al., relates to a WLAN between a computer terminal and one or more peripheral devices. The computer terminal and each peripheral device has
5 attached to it a transceiver, in each of which a micro-processor resides. One of the transceivers, designated as a base unit, controls communication between the computer terminal and the peripheral devices of the WLAN according to an "Idle Sense" protocol. This protocol, however, requires
10 the base unit to remain active at all times, thus requiring a great deal of power. Furthermore, such communication control is limited to the transmission range of the unit's transceiver and control is lost by the base unit if it is carried outside of the transmission range.

15 While the WLAN is being implemented in a variety of ways in the home and workplace, information flow to the network from the outside is often hubbed at a "low" point in the house or business structure. That is, cables and wires carrying information into the house or business structure are
20 usually brought into, or connected, to the house or business at the ground floor or basement level. Alternatively, FWBA (also known as "wireless cable") is often brought into, or connected, to the house or business structure at a "high" point. That is, FWBA is attained through the use of antennas
25 and/or satellite dishes usually mounted on the roof of the house or business structure and then hard-wired to the device.

Thus the information distribution points, or connections from the outside (i.e., antennas, dishes, cables, etc.), are diametrically placed apart from one another. To combine the
30 two requires extensive re-wiring of the home or business, which is intrusive and expensive. Furthermore, those devices designed to use the FWBA which are not wired in the home or business structure often have difficulty receiving data

transmissions inside of the home or business due to channel conditions or signal degradation (i.e., interference, etc.).

Thus as can be seen, there remains a need for the seamless integration of FWBA and a WLAN which will provide for uninterrupted communication service regardless of location and which will eliminate any need for expensive and interruptive re-wiring of a home or business.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, broadband radio signals, either analog or digital, are transmitted between radio antenna base stations or satellites and a fixed antenna or satellite dish mounted in a home or business. In the home or business the radio signals are processed and modulated/demodulated by RF processing and modulation/demodulation components, and then sent to or received from a wireless local area network radio transmitter/receiver. The WLAN radio transmitter/ receiver is directly built onto (i.e., integrated with) the RF processing and modulation/demodulation components. The radio signals are transmitted to or received by the WLAN radio transmitter/receiver by one or more portable or stationary devices comprising the WLAN in the home or business. For transmission and receipt of the signals, each device has a transmitter/receiver and can be programmed to transmit and receive the signals on the basis of channel conditions and signal strength inside and outside of the home or business.

The present invention, including its features and advantages, will become more apparent from the following detailed description with reference to the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 illustrates wiring and/or cable schematics

in a home and/or business, according to the prior art.

Figure 2 illustrates FWBA and WLAN component integration, according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 3 illustrates a schematic of an integration of the FWBA and WLAN in a home and/or business, according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 4 illustrates a flow chart for a transfer protocol which provides seamless communication in movement between indoor and outdoor locations, according to an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring to Figure 1, wiring and/or cable schematics in a home and/or business 5 may be configured such that television 1, telephone 2, computer 3, and electronic device 4 are connected to outside data communication sources (not shown) via either antenna 6 or cable 8. Communications to antenna 6 are, of course, through known wireless means. Communications via cable 8 are, of course, over known land line based means. Further, it is to be understood, of course, that the data communication sources may be any device or construction capable of transmitting broadband radio frequency signals, such as, for example, a transmission tower or satellite.

In the case where data communication is via antenna 6, connections to television 1, telephone 2, computer 3, and electronic device 4 through information distribution point 10 is by cable(s) 7. Each device connected to antenna 6, it should be noted, can have its own cable and/or wiring 7 such

that communication lines are not crossed and interference is minimized. Further, it should be noted, of course, that antenna 6 can instead be a satellite dish. Satellite dish and/or antenna 6 are usually mounted on the roof of home 5.

- 5 This causes the communication hub and information distribution point 10 to be at a high point in the home.

10 In the case where data communication is via cable 8, connections to television 1, telephone 2, computer 3, and electronic device 4 are through information distribution point 11 by cable 9. Once again, each device may have its own cable and/or wiring 9 such that communication lines are not crossed and interference is minimized. This wiring schematic set-up causes the communication hub and information distribution point 11 to usually be at a low point in home 5. It is to be
 15 noted, of course, that cable 9 connecting each of the electronic devices may be a copper and/or optical fiber, or may instead be wireless via radio. Thus, as can be seen, as each of the information distribution points 10 and 11 are usually hubbed to the outside data communication sources at
 20 different points, it makes it difficult and expensive to provide wiring between the two to connect them.

25 Figures 2 through 4 illustrate a method and apparatus for integrating FWBA and a WLAN. Referring specifically now to Figure 2, satellite dish and/or antenna 6 receives communication from an outside data communication source (e.g., a broadband radio frequency transmission tower, a satellite, etc., not shown) via known wireless means. The communication data is then transferred through information distribution point 10 to a FWBA and WLAN integrator 20.
 30 Contained within the integrator 20 is an RF processing component 30, a modulator/demodulator component 40 and a wireless local area radio component 50. Power is supplied to the integrator 20 through power source 60. Communication data

is passed from information distribution point 10 to the integrator 20, processed by the RF processing component 30, modulated/demodulated by the modulator/demodulator component 40 and passed to the wireless local area radio component 50.

5 At this point, the communication data is transferred to antenna 21 for transmission to electronic device 22. Electronic device 22 is capable of receiving the communication data transmitted from antenna 21 through its own antenna and receiver. It is to be noted, of course, that electronic
 10 device 22 can be any sort of electronic device (i.e., such as television 1, telephone 2, computer 3 and an alternative electronic device 4 as shown in Figure 1), portable or not. Thus, as can be seen, satellite dish and/or antenna 6 can receive various types of communication data transmissions from
 15 the various outside data communication sources, and then transmit the communication data by antenna 21 throughout the home and/or business 5 to electronic device 22. For instance, television signals can be received by the antenna 6 and transmitted by the integrator 20 to the television 1 or
 20 computer 3 to be watched and, perhaps at the same time, electronic data (e.g., E-mail) can be received by the antenna and transmitted by the integrator 20 to either the television 1 or computer 3 for reading, etc.

Referring now to Figure 3, an exemplary embodiment
 25 of an integration of FWBA and a WLAN in home and/or business 5 is shown. Antenna 6 receives data communications transmitted from an outside data communication source (e.g., a broadband radio frequency transmission tower, a satellite, etc., not shown) and transmits this data through information
 30 distribution point 10 to the integrator 20. It is to be noted, of course, that integrator 20 may be mounted either inside the roof (e.g., in the attic) and connected to antenna 6 by wire and/or cable, or may be mounted on the roof outside

of home and/or business 5. Integrator 20 transmits the data communication by wireless means through radio antenna 21 to television 1, telephone 2, computer 3 and/or electronic device 4. Each of these receiving apparatus has built in and/or on to them, respectively, a receiver antenna. It is to be noted, of course, that communication may be bi-directional in that communication data may also travel from television 1, telephone 2, computer 3 and/or electronic device 4 to the integrator 20 for transmission by satellite dish and/or antenna 6 to the outside. In this manner then, re-wiring of a home and/or business is not necessary each time a new electronic device is purchased, and thus "golden installation" may be achieved in that a consumer may buy integrator 20 and simply plug it in or add it on to satellite dish and/or antenna 6. It is to be noted, of course, that the present invention is not to be limited to either rooftop and/or attic mounting, but that the outside data communication radio signals may be hubbed at a point that is lower in the home and/or business 5. For instance, information distribution point 10 may be hubbed at a lower point in the home. The satellite dish and/or antenna 6 may be placed in a window or at ground level (inside or outside home and/or business 5) and the information distribution point may be hubbed as in Figure 1, as in the case of the location of information distribution point 11.

Further then, it is to be noted that alternatively, or in conjunction with the above, in the case where data communications enter the home and/or business 5 through distribution point 11 via cable 8, the integrator 20 may be connected at this point. Cable 8, as does satellite dish and/or antenna 6, can act as a conduit for the data communication from the outside data communication source. As above, integrator 20 transmits the data communication by

wireless means through radio antenna 21 to television 1, telephone 2, computer 3 and/or electronic device 4. Also, as above, communication may be bi-directional.

Referring now to Figure 4, a flowchart for a transfer protocol providing seamless communication in movement between indoor and outdoor locations is shown. Consumers who will use their portable devices will want to use the devices inside and outside of the home 5 without communication interruptions. Often consumers find that their electronic devices are incapable of transmitting and/or receiving communication signals indoors or outdoors due to lack of signal strength or interference. Seamless communication is thus provided in that each electronic device 22 can be programmed to receive signals from either a satellite and/or fixed ground antenna outside or a WLAN radio inside. To accomplish this, in the first step, step 100, the integrator 20 sends out an interrogation signal to all electronic devices within its transmission range. Such interrogation signal is for determining which electronic devices are within the integrator's transmission range, and for allowing information relating to signal strength, channel interference, and alternate signal channel sources to be passed between the integrator and the electronic device.

In step 200 then, the current signal strength and channel interference of the signal channel through which data is being transmitted and/or received is measured. For instance, if the device is a cellular telephone and is currently transmitting and receiving data comprising a telephone conversation via a FWBA, such as from an antenna tower or satellite, the cellular telephone will measure and keep track of the strength and interference of the current signal from the antenna tower or satellite source. The cellular telephone will send such information to the

integrator during an interrogation when the cellular telephone is carried into range of the integrator.

In step 300, the integrator and/or the device then determine if there are any alternate signal channel transmission/reception sources for the signal channel through which the data can be transmitted and/or received. For instance, the cellular telephone device, having measured the strength and/or interference of the channel strength from the FWBA source, will determine if an alternate signal channel source, such as a WLAN is available. This situation would arise when the device was carried from outdoor to indoor (i.e., into a home and/or business). It is to be understood, of course, that the opposite situation could also occur. That is, the cellular telephone device could be transmitting/receiving in an indoor WLAN environment and be carried outside to a FWBA environment. Further, it is to be understood that if no alternative signal channel source is identified, the step can be repeated.

At this point then, in step 400, if another signal source is identified, a determination of that signal source strength and channel interference is performed. For instance, if the cellular telephone device was carried indoors from the FWBA signal channel source, and the WLAN signal channel source was identified as being present, the integrator and/or cellular telephone device will measure the signal strength and channel interference for the WLAN source.

In step 500 then, a comparison of the two (or more) signal channel sources is carried out to determine which signal channel source is a better source through which to carry on the transmission and/or reception of the signal carrying the data. Such comparison can be accomplished by simply comparing and contrasting the two separate measurements taken of the two signal channel sources.

Having compared the two, in step 600, a determination as to which signal channel source is better to carry the signal is made. If the signal strength and channel interference are better from the alternate source, then crossover to that communication source is effected in step 700. If channel condition and signal strength are not better, then communication source crossover is not performed and the integrator and/or device can return to step 100 to repeat the process. For instance, continuing with the above example, if in moving from outdoor to indoor, the integrator and/or the cellular telephone device identify the WLAN signal channel source and determine that the alternate indoor WLAN source is better, crossover from the FWBA source to the WLAN source is effected. If the identified alternative WLAN source is not better than the FWBA source, then the integrator and/or the cellular telephone device re-measures and re-determines the signal strength and channel interference of each of the signal channel sources.

It is to be noted, of course, that such communication source crossover may occur a number of times and for either direction of movement (i.e., going inside or outside). Further, if any communication source is lost and/or there is an interruption in any step of the process, the integrator and/or device can begin again at step 100. Thus it is to be understood, of course, that steps 100 through 700 can be automatically continuously repeated, or repeated on demand by the consumer or upon a particular catalyst.

Furthermore, it is to be understood that different frequency channels may be used. For instance, a cellular telephone conversation may be carried out using one channel over FWBA and on a separate and distinct channel on the WLAN.

Identification of the appropriate channels over which the conversation is being carried may be accomplished by using

embedded data identifier tags in the conversation data.

Also furthermore, it is to be understood, of course, that the integrator and the electronic device can each be programmed with the indoor/outdoor communication transfer protocol so that they act in conjunction with one another or separately. If the integrator alone is programmed to monitor signal strength and channel interference in the home and/or business, the integrator effects signal channel source crossover by sending such instructions to the electronic device. The integrator will get information, of course, from the electronic device, and determine its relative location, by periodically interrogating the device.

In this manner then, an electronic device 22 may be used either in or near a home and/or business under the FWBA and WLAN integration, according to the present invention, or may be used outside of the communication range of the integrator 20 when at a distance from the home and/or business. Communication switch-over may be made to and from a land-based antenna tower or satellite for normal FWBA.

As can be seen by the above invention, expensive and intrusive rewiring of the home and/or business is not necessary through the integration of FWBA and a WLAN according to the present invention. Instead all that is needed is the installation of the integrator as described above. Further, seamless communication can be achieved both inside and outside of the home, allowing for freedom of movement by the consumer.

In the foregoing description, the method and apparatus of the present invention have been described with reference to a number of examples that are not to be considered limiting. Rather, it is to be understood and expected that variations in the principles of the method and apparatus herein disclosed may be made by one skilled in the art and it is intended that such modifications, changes,

and/or substitutions are to be included within the scope of the present invention as set forth in the appended claims. The specification and the drawings are accordingly to be regarded in an illustrative rather than in a restrictive sense.

5

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An apparatus for integrating fixed wireless broadband access and a wireless local area radio network, comprising:

5 a broadband radio signal transmitter/receiver that is capable of transmitting and receiving at least one broadband radio signal; and

an integrator, the integrator comprising:

10 an RF processing component that processes the at least one broadband radio signal;

a modulator/demodulator component for modulating/demodulating the at least one broadband radio signal; and

15 a wireless local area radio for transmission and reception of the at least one broadband radio signal.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

20 a local area antenna by which the wireless local area radio transmits and receives the at least one broadband radio signal.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

25 a power source for providing power to the integrator.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

30 an electronic device capable of transmitting and receiving the at least one broadband radio signal to and from the integrator and an outside data communication source.

5. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein such transmission and reception of the at least one broadband radio

signal by the electronic device to and from the integrator and the outside data communication source is based upon at least one of a signal strength measurement and a channel interference measurement for each of the integrator and
5 outside data communication source.

6. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the signal strength measurement and the channel interference measurement for each of the integrator and the outside data
10 communication source are compared, and from this comparison a determination of whether a transmission/reception crossover should be effected is carried out.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the at
15 least one broadband radio signal may be either analog or digital in nature.

8. An apparatus for integrating fixed wireless broadband access and a wireless local area radio network, comprising:
20 a broadband signal conduit over which communication data is transmitted and received; and
an integrator, the integrator comprising:
an RF processing component that processes the communication data;
25 a modulator/demodulator component for modulating/demodulating the communication data; and
a wireless local area radio for transmission and reception of the communication data.

9. The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:
30 a local area antenna by which the wireless local area radio transmits and receives the communication data.

10. The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

a power source for providing power to the integrator.

5

11. The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

an electronic device capable of transmitting and receiving the communication data to and from the integrator and an outside data communication source.

10

12. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein such transmission and reception of the communication data by the electronic device to and from the integrator and the outside data communication source is based upon at least one of a signal strength measurement and a channel interference measurement for each of the integrator and outside data communication source.

15

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the signal strength measurement and the channel interference measurement for each of the integrator and the outside data communication source are compared, and from this comparison a determination of whether a transmission/reception crossover should be effected is carried out.

20

25

14. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the at least one communication data may be either analog or digital in nature.

30

15. A method of integrating fixed wireless broadband access and a wireless local area radio network, comprising the steps of:

acting as a conduit for at least one broadband radio frequency signal;

processing the at least one broadband radio frequency signal;

5 modulating/demodulating the at least one broadband radio frequency signal; and

transmitting the at least one broadband radio frequency signal between a wireless local area radio and an electronic device.

10

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the step of acting as a conduit for the at least one broadband radio frequency signal is performed by at least one of an antenna, a satellite dish and a cable.

15

17. The method according to claim 15, wherein transmission of the at least one broadband radio frequency signal between the wireless local area radio and the electronic device is through a local area antenna.

20

18. The method according to claim 15, wherein the steps of processing, modulating/demodulating and transmitting the at least one broadband radio frequency signal are performed by an integrator.

25

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the integrator may receive a signal from the electronic device for transmission by at least one of an antenna, a satellite dish and a cable.

30

20. A method of integrating fixed wireless broadband access and a wireless local area radio network, comprising the steps of:

determining a signal strength and a channel interference of a first signal channel source of at least one broadband radio frequency signal;

5 identifying a second signal channel source for the at least one broadband radio frequency signal;

determining a signal strength and a channel interference of the second signal channel source;

determining whether the second signal channel source is better than the first signal channel source; and

10 effecting crossover if it is determined that the second signal channel source is better.

21. The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of:

15 interrogating an electronic device to pass information relating to the at least one broadband radio frequency signal.

20 22. The method according to claim 20, wherein the determination of whether the second signal channel source is better than the first signal channel source is accomplished by a comparison of the signal strength and channel interference of each of the first and the second signal channel sources.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for integrating Fixed Wireless Broadband Access (FWBA) and a Wireless Local Access radio Network (WLAN) is presented. An antenna or satellite dish leads to an RF (Radio Frequency) processor and modulator/demodulator component installed in a home or business which allows for receipt of an analog and/or digital signal sent by broadband transmission from a fixed base station. Integrated to the FWBA set-up is a transmitter/receiver linking a number of portable or stationary devices in a WLAN, allowing for seamless communication to and from the WLAN devices inside or outside of the home and/or business. Devices can be programmed to receive or transmit data according to location and channel conditions and signal strength inside and outside of the home or business.

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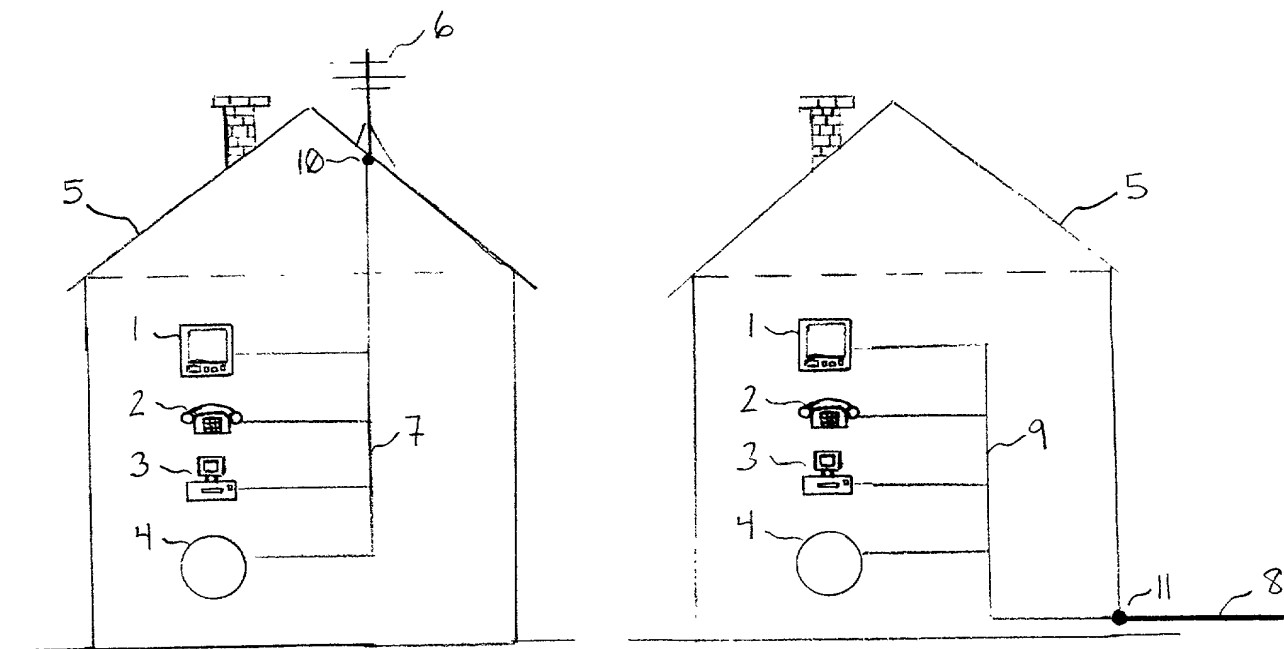


FIG. 1
(PRIOR ART)

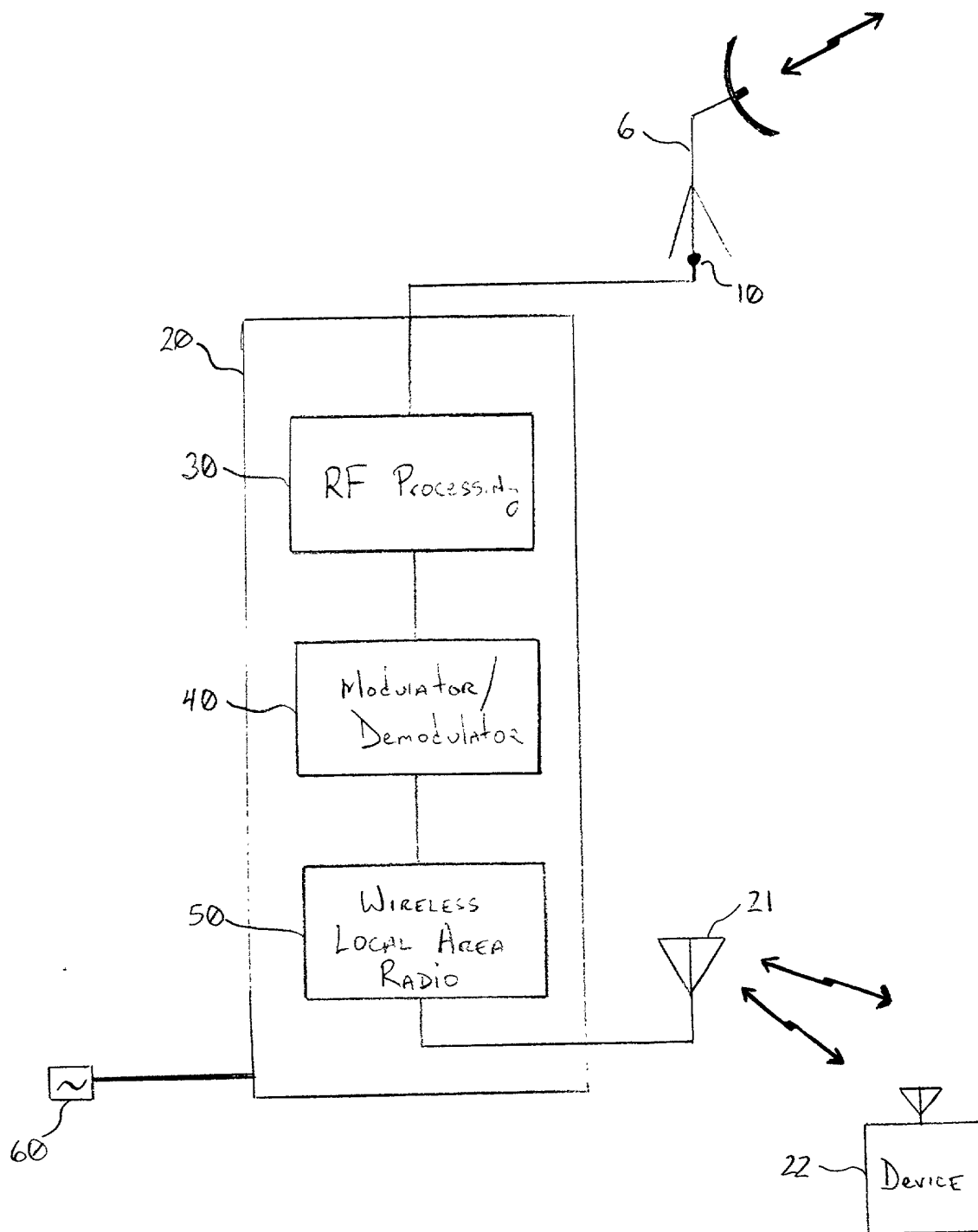


FIG. 2

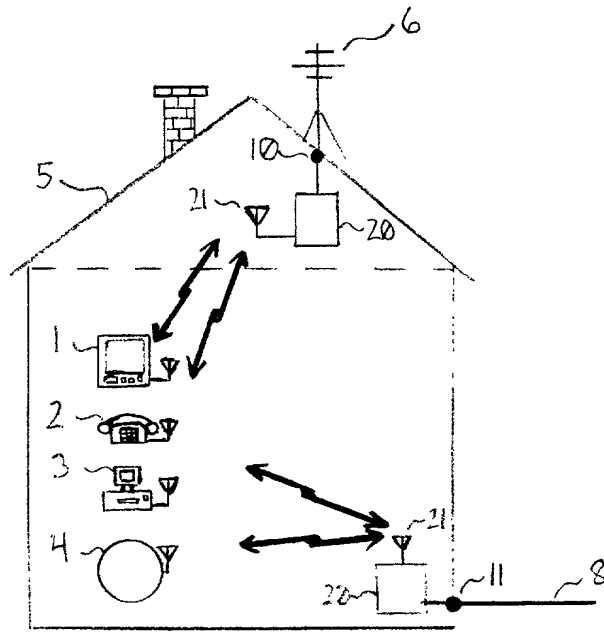


FIG. 3

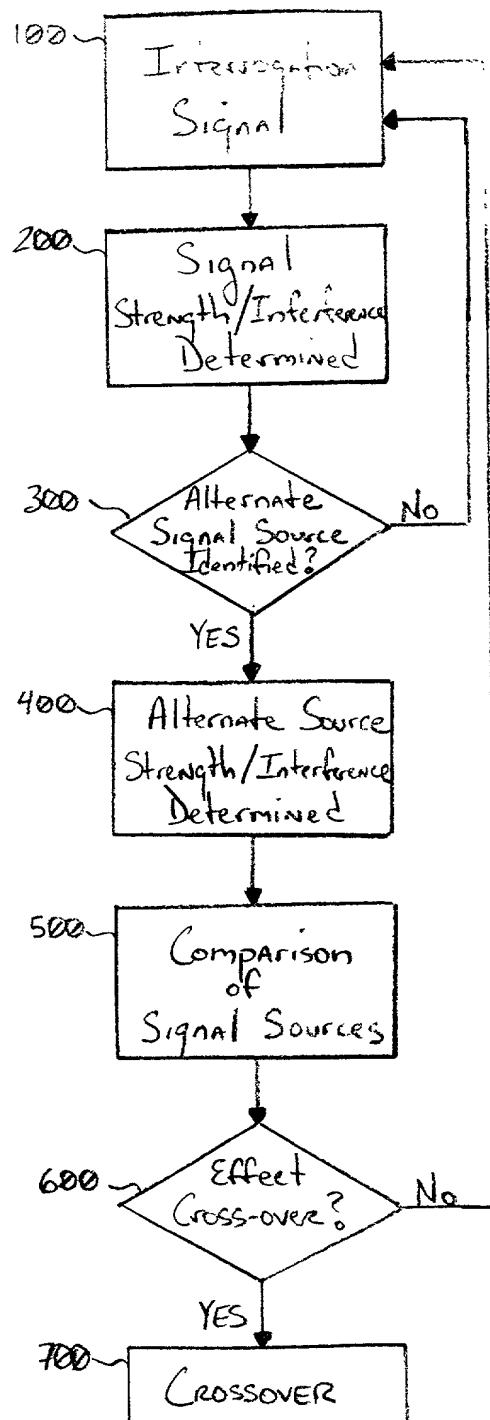


FIG. 4

IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Declaration and Power of Attorney

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am an original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **A Method And Apparatus For A Fixed Wireless Broadband Access And Wireless LAN Integration**, the specification of which is attached hereto.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by an amendment, if any, specifically referred to in this oath or declaration.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventors' certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventors' certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

None

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, 112, we acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to us to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

None

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute said application, to make alterations and amendments therein, to receive the patent, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

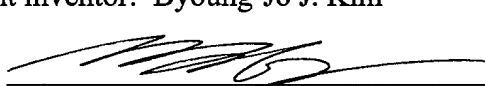
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Benjamin S. Lee	(Reg. No. 42787)
Alfred G. Steinmetz	(Reg. No. 22971)

I also appoint Frank Pietrantonio (Reg. No. 32289) and John J. Skinner, Jr. (Reg. No. 42153) of Kenyon & Kenyon as associate attorneys, with full power to prosecute said application, to make alterations and amendments therein, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Please address all correspondence to Mr. S. H. Dworetsky, AT&T Corp., P.O. Box 4110, Middletown, New Jersey 07748. Telephone calls should be made to Samuel H. Dworetsky at 973-360-8120.

Full name of 1st joint inventor: Byoung-Jo J. Kim

Inventor's signature



Date

July 26th, 1999

Residence: Atlantic Highlands, Monmouth County, New Jersey

Citizenship:

~~North Korea~~ South Korea (Republic of Korea) R.K.

Post Office Address:

10 Ocean Boulevard
Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey 07716

Inventor's signature

Date July 28, 1999

Post Office Address:

1 St. James Place
Staten Island, New York 10304

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